

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming system comprising:

a plurality of devices including at least an image forming device which forms an image based on image data, a control device which controls an operation of the image forming device based on an instruction input through a user interface, and an input device which inputs the image data; and

a communication controller, which can communicate with each of the plurality of devices, and, when the communication controller receives a command transmitted from any one of the plurality of devices, based on the received command, selects at least one device as a transmission destination from the plurality of devices except a transmission source of the received command, and transmits the received command to the selected device.

2. The image forming system of claim 1, wherein the communication controller selects the control device and the input device as transmission destinations when the received command is a command from the image forming device which requests the image data to be transferred in response to the time the image is formed.

3. The image forming system of claim 1, wherein the communication controller:

selects the image forming device as a transmission

destination when the received command is a command from the control device which requests a diagnosis of the state of the image forming device, and

selects the control device as a transmission destination when the received command is a command from the image forming device which provides notification of the state of the image forming device as a result of the diagnosis.

4. The image forming system of claim 1, wherein the communication controller selects the image forming device and the input device as transmission destinations when the received command is a command from the control device which either instructs power supply control or provides notification of abnormality in the control device.

5. The image forming system of claim 1, wherein the communication controller selects a device which performs at least some of processes for performing image control to adjust an image formed by the image forming device as a transmission destination when the received command is a command from the image forming device which provides information on the formed image.

6. The image forming system of claim 1, wherein the communication controller selects any one of the control device and the input device as a transmission destination when the received command is a command from the image forming device which provides notification that the image data and the formed

image match with each other, and

selects both the control device and the input device as transmission destinations when the received command is a command from the image forming device, which provides notification that the image data and the formed image do not match with each other.

7. The image forming system of claim 1, wherein the communication controller comprises a memory in which relation information between the type of the command and a device serving as a transmission destination is stored, and

selects a device relating to the received command based on the relation information.

8. The image forming system of claim 1, wherein the communication controller is arranged in the image forming device.

9. A communication control device included in the image forming system, the communication control device comprising:

a plurality of communication controllers corresponding to each of a plurality of devices included in the image forming system; and

a controller, which performs control so that when a command is transmitted from any one of the plurality of devices through the communication controller corresponding to the selected devices, at least one device is selected as a transmission destination from the plurality of devices except

a transmission source of the received command, and control is performed such that the received command is transmitted to the selected device through the communication controller corresponding to the selected device,

wherein the plurality of devices includes at least an image forming device that forms an image based on image data, a control device that controls an operation of the image forming device based on an instruction input through a user interface, and an input device that inputs the image data.

10. The communication control device of claim 9, further comprising a memory in which relation information between the type of the command and a device serving as a transmission destination is stored,

wherein a device related to the received command is selected based on the relation information.

11. The communication control device of claim 9, wherein the communication control device is arranged in the image forming device.

12. A method of controlling communication among a plurality of devices included in an image forming system, the method being performed by a communication control device included in the image forming system, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving a command transmitted from any one of the plurality of devices;

(b) selecting at least one device from the plurality of devices except a transmission source of the received command as a transmission destination based on the received command; and
(c) transmitting the received command to the selected device;

wherein the plurality of devices include at least an image forming device that forms an image based on image data, a control device that controls an operation of the image forming device based on an instruction input through a user interface, and an input device that inputs the image data.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein, in the step (b), the control device and the input device are selected as transmission destinations when the received command is a command from the image forming device which requests the image data to be transferred in response to the time the image is formed.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein, in the step (b), the image forming device is selected as a transmission destination when the received command is a command from the control device which requests a diagnosis of the state of the image forming device, and

the control device is selected as a transmission destination when the received command is a command from the image forming device which provides notification of the state of the image forming device as a result of the state diagnosis.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein, in the step (b),

the image forming device and the input device are selected as transmission destinations when the received command is a command from the control device which instructs power supply control or provides notification of an abnormality in the control device.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein, in the step (b), a device which performs at least some of processes for performing image control to adjust an image formed by the image forming device is selected as a transmission destination when the received command is a command from the image forming device which provides information on the formed image.

17. The method of claim 12, wherein, in the step (b), any one of the control device and the input device is selected as a transmission destination when the received command is a command from the image forming device which provides notification that the image data and the image match with each other, and

both the control device and the input device are selected as transmission destinations when the received command is a command from the image forming device, which provides notification that the image data and the formed image do not match with each other.